How the Tiny People Became Tall

By: Nancy Wood

Illustrated By: Rebecca Walsh

The curiosity of the tiny people venturing out from the center of the earth sets the tone for this book. The tiny people enter a world that was once unknown to them and they encounter many types of new things. The close family like, creatures, stick together and learns the ways of the new land.

Wood does a great job of exposing the curiosity of the tiny people. The tale shows how they grow from being scared and uncomfortable to adventurous and comfortable. The illustrations use smooth pastel colors. The tiny people begin the book with showing scared looks on their faces but as time moves on their expressions turn into joy. The tiniest of them all shows courage from the beginning of the book. He was the first one out from the cave and stands strong with the scary animals surround him. At the end of the book he becomes the leader of the group.

Later in the book the eagle is the one that shows them the land from his point of view. Wood does this because an eagle is viewed as a strong, powerful leader. The eagle takes the tiny people to new places where the clouds are made of dreams. This part in the story shows the tiny people that they too can have dreams. The next animal they come in contact was the turtle. The turtle is one of the longest living animals on earth, so he teaches the tiny people to take their time because you will learn more

When the creatures become tall they portray similar features as natives in our world. They wear cloth and live in the woods. It’s important to note there are no female tiny people. This could have the wrong view to some people because a culture is diverse.

At first reading this story I thought the story line was very sweet and innocent but after doing some further research on the author I found that her pictures didn’t really match up to the actual ideas she was trying to convey. She writes about pueblos and the native people from ideas from her native friends (<http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/64095.Nancy_Wood> ). The pictures are beautifully done and would catch the eye of many young readers but Pueblo people are from dry dessert like conditions. After looking farther into this the green trees and grass that was portrayed would not match that of the Pueblo’s climate. After reading this story I think it would be a great way for children to learn about tales. Many lessons could come from this story but it is important to keep in mind that the pictures are not accurately showing the native peoples land. To read more about Pueblo people: <http://cpluhna.nau.edu/People/anasazi.htm>

Cinderella’s Dress

By: Nancy Willard

Illustrated by: Jane Dyer

Finally not another Cinderella tail is what I thought when I picked this book up to read. Cinderella has black hair and the title wasn’t just Cinderella but *Cinderella’s Dress.* Other than that the story line follows the traditional story line of Cinderella but from the view of two magpies view. I was hoping for a more nontraditional Cinderella story.

The illustrations show vibrant bright colors throughout the book. The emotions cannot be seen through the colors so it is left to the expressions on faces. It could have been done better by making the colors correlate with the emotions. When Cinderella was sad when her dress was ruined they used bright colors, using darker colors would have given the reader a better feeling. The pinks and yellow colors make it very appealing to younger female readers.

The story is poem like, with many rhyming words. Many younger readers will enjoying the rhyming aspect of this story. This can be good for teachers or parents when teaching children about rhyming. The child can find the rhyming words on the pages. It is also a great way for children to experience poetry. I think that it my portray that poetry must rhyme so its important to make sure they are exposed in another ways.

Snow White

By Paul Heins

The cover of the book shows the traditional Snow White girl with pale skin and lushes red lip, and black hair. Although she glows her environment around her is quite startling. This sets the tone for the book. The pictures are dark and stern that add a mysterious feel to the flow of the book. The story line is the traditional Snow White fairy tale.

When Snow white was left alone her facial expressions match to the loneliness of the text. When Snow White was tired his body language showed a tired distraught person. When she was relaxed a slight smile can be seen. Heins really nailed the emotional expressions that she was feeling at that point in the story. The witches’ facial expressions showed almost a psychotic like person. Her eyes where big and bold, looking through things rather than at them. The dwarfs were gremlin like and almost scary. I thought that this took away from each of the personalities the 7 dwarfs were supposed to have. They all looked stern when in fact the story line shows that they all were very different from one another. Although the illustrations of this story are beautiful it is much darker than the traditional Disney story of Snow White.

A link to other reviews:

<http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/730596.Snow_White#other_reviews>

The author translates this story from the Brothers of Grimm. The stories started out harsh and bewitched like and they gradually became sweeter and softer. The Disney movie Snow white has transformed into a sweeter version. I think many people have the view of the innocent version of Snow White that it is hard especially for someone like me to see such a harsh story being portrayed.

The Grimm Bothers

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/grimm/index2.html>

This scary version of Snow White would not be appealing to younger readers. It is too scary for them. Many of the already know the story line from Disney and they would find this story line incorrect. My overall opinion would be that this story is a good read for some that is older and has had the background knowledge on the types of stories by the Grimm Bothers. Children will still be able to relate with the text because it is similar to that of Disney’s Snow White.

Fat Cat

By: Margaret Read Macdonald

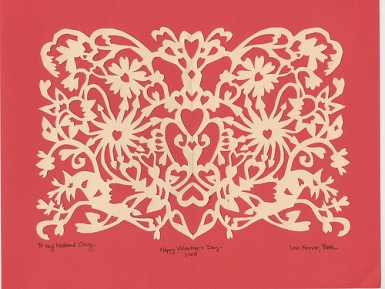
Illustrated By: Julie Paschkis

A mouse and a cat live in a house? My first reaction was that the cat was going to eat the mouse. I found it funny when the mouse made the cat food. These animals are not supposed to get a long, I thought to myself. Macdonald does a nice job with twisting this traditional thought around by making the mouse make food for the cat. The Fat Cat is still hungry and goes else where to find food. After eating things that could never really be eaten by a cat his stomach expands. He comes right back to the house where the mouse is sowing and eats the mouse. I thought it was interesting that Macdonald saved the mouse for last.

The repetition of the text will have any child engaged. I found myself thinking I know what comes next. “Oh, I’m a meow meow fat! ‘Cause I’m a hungry hungry cat!” this was repeated after he ate he ate something. Every person that he came encountered with would say “my, cat! You sure are fat” This repeating of the text is great for young children because it keeps them engaged in the text. There also rhyme words displayed in this book that will keep the child finding all of the rhyming words on the pages. “Slip, slop, slurp”, is used over and over again. It makes the reader aware of the “sl” sound.

This is a Danish folktale and many of the drawings have Danish patterns in them. Different lines and shapes make up a complex design on the sweater of the cat. I found that they have pointy patterns in Danish quilts and these can be seen on the pies illustrated. The wash lady the cat ate was an example of a typical Danish woman. All of the illustrations had you following the flow of the story to the next page. I knew to turn the page because everything was going into that direction.

Danish patterns:

 [](http://www.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://farm4.static.flickr.com/3240/2423419520_d00720387a.jpg%3Fv%3D0&imgrefurl=http://flickr.com/photos/87739302%40N00/2423419520/&usg=__s7335PdjNhbqHcJYM5-c2SPXceI=&h=234&w=375&sz=51&hl=en&start=44&zoom=1&tbnid=wYQqgDe_2B4FpM:&tbnh=167&tbnw=237&ei=DrxmTaG6H4GKlweTi6WoBw&prev=/images%3Fq%3Dtraditional%2Bdanish%2Bpatterns%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DX%26biw%3D1259%26bih%3D851%26tbs%3Disch:1&itbs=1&iact=rc&dur=202&oei=v7tmTciVKoT78Aazl4COCw&page=3&ndsp=24&ved=1t:429,r:7,s:44&tx=107&ty=137)

Jack and the Bean Stalk

By Steven Kellogg

This story is based on the classic American story of Jack and the Bean Stalk. The illustrations are very detailed and take up the entire page. The illustrations can’t just be glanced. I found myself looking longer at the illustrations and paying attention to detail. The pictures are fairy tale like and show a great among of emotion in them. In the beginning of the book life on the farm was full of color. When the bean stalk grew blue and green colors swirled together to give a mysterious affect on the text. As jack entered the life on top of the bean stalk a creepy feeling was given by the ugliness of the ogres. It wasn’t too scary because their facial expressions showed a child friendly side. As the ogres pulled Jack to the oven he looked in distress. Kellogg takes jack and pulls him along the bottom of the book as if it points the reader to the next page.

Kellogg is a bestselling author and it is shown in his books. He uses an exordinary amount of detail that any child will love. He uses a dreamy affect in his stories and it is shown in this book. This is an easy read for many young readers. It will introduce them to new things.

Background on Kellogg:

<http://www.stevenkellogg.com/page2.html>